

Connecticut Weekly AGRICULTURAL REPORT

Dannel P. Malloy, Governor
Steven K. Reviczky, Commissioner
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Connecticut Department of Agriculture
July 26, 2017



GARLIC IS IN THE AIR AS CROP IS HARVESTED, MARKET BOOMS

By Steve Jensen, Office of Commissioner Steven K. Reviczky

WEST GRANBY - Customers pulling into The Garlic Farm last weekend didn't need their eyes to tell them that the annual harvest of the farm's signature crop was underway.

The pungent, appetizing smell of just-picked garlic starting to cure in a converted tobacco barn was strong enough to greet visitors before they even turned into the farm's gravel driveway on Simsbury Road.

Supervising his small crew of pickers, owner Gary Cirullo said it is the finest crop he's seen since he first planted German White hardneck garlic here more than two decades ago.

"This is beautiful garlic – tremendous," Cirullo said as he worked a raised bed where he pulled out fist-sized bulbs that can weigh up to a half-pound each. "German White doesn't get much bigger than this and it's got a real kick to it."

Cirullo, who has a degree in Agronomy from UConn and worked for many years on dairy farms in his native Rocky Hill, believes his five acres of garlic makes it one of the largest garlic farms in New England.

He expects to yield roughly 3,000 to 5,000 pounds of garlic per acre this season, and attributes the extraordinary crop mainly to his practice of selecting the largest and healthiest seed-garlic stock from the harvest every year.

"It's mostly genetics," he explained, shaking soil off a bunch of six bulbs and long green-and-brown stalks that are left in the rows to be collected and brought to the

curing barn the same day. "We grade out the best stock so every year you're getting better and better stock and this year it came out very nice."

He first planted garlic – a member of the onion family – after reading an article in Smithsonian magazine about the enormous garlic industry in California. Harvesting about 40 pounds that first season, he found it wasn't always an easy sell.

Because as popular and ubiquitous as garlic may be today, he said, back then it wasn't a product that many customers were used to seeing at a farm stand.

"It was very new to the area – nobody was growing garlic back then," Cirullo recalled. "For many years it was slow. It took ten years to build up a market. Now, almost every farm in the state grows garlic."

And his large customer base is not just taking it home to include in recipes. More than half his business now is in sales of seed stock to backyard growers.

"In the last five years the garlic business in Connecticut has skyrocketed," he said, noting the popularity of an annual garlic festival held every fall in Bethlehem. "More people are eating garlic and becoming more educated about it because of all the health benefits and more homeowners are planting garlic themselves. They're having fun with it to be honest with you."

And although it has taken decades of experimentation with various cultivation practices to achieve this year's superior crop, Cirullo said one of the beauties of garlic

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NORTHEAST EGGS/USDA

Per doz. Grade A and Grade A white in cartons to retailers (volume buyers)

XTRA LARGE	.78	.92
LARGE	.73	.87
MEDIUM	.50	.63

NEW ENGLAND SHELL EGGS

Per doz. Grade A brown in carton delivered store door. (Range)

XTRA LARGE	1.33	1.44
LARGE	1.29	1.40
MEDIUM	.81	.94
SMALL	.48	.58

NEW HOLLAND, PA. HOG AUCTION

Avg dressing. Per cwt.

52-56	200-300 lbs	57.00	63.00
	300-350 lbs	55.00	63.00
	400-500 lbs	52.50	55.00
48-52	200-300 lbs	56.00	60.50
	300-350 lbs	55.00	56.00
	350-400 lbs	51.00	51.00
Sows, US 1-3	400-500 lbs	48.00	48.00
	300-500 lbs	45.00	53.00
	500-800 lbs	59.50	64.00
Boars	200-300 lbs	42.00	44.00
	500-900 lbs	5.00	12.50

NEW HOLLAND, PA. FEEDER PIG

July 19, 2017

US 1-2	20-30 LBS	160.00	160.00
	40-50 LBS	125.00	125.00
	50-60 LBS	100.00	140.00
	60-80 LBS	85.00	120.00
US 2	20-30 LBS	120.00	160.00
	30-40 LBS	150.00	160.00
	60-80 LBS	125.00	125.00
	80-100 LBS	70.00	110.00
	130-180 LBS	40.00	50.00

HAY - LANCASTER, PA

Tuesday, July 25, 2017. Small squares, each.

ALFALFA		
Fair	140.00	160.00
ALFALFA/GRASS		
Premium	300.00	300.00
Fair	125.00	125.00
GRASS HAYS (Timothy/Orchard)		
Good	145.00	165.00
Fair	160.00	160.00

NORTH CAROLINA PASTURE RAISED PORK REPORT

Price from producer to consumer /lb. July 21, 2017.

WHOLE PIG, HANGING WT	3.25	5.25
1/2 PIG, HANGING WT	3.50	5.85
TENDERLOIN	10.99	14.99
PORK LOIN	9.49	10.99
PORK CHOPS	6.00	12.00
HAM, ROAST	5.99	8.50
HAM, SMOKED	7.49	8.99
ST. LOUIS RIBS	5.99	9.00
BABY BACK RIBS	6.50	8.50
SPARE RIBS	4.19	8.00
BOSTON BUTT	5.50	8.50
SHANK	4.50	6.50
PICNIC ROAST	5.50	8.50
BACON	6.29	13.00

WHOLESALE FRUITS & VEGETABLES

Boston Terminal and Wholesale Grower Prices

NEW ENGLAND GROWN

	LOW	HIGH
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 5 LB CTN	14.00	14.00
ALFALFA SPROUTS, 12-4 OZ	16.00	16.50
BEAN SPROUTS, 12-12 OZ	12.00	15.00
BEAN SPROUTS, 10 LBS	6.00	7.00
BEANS, GREEN, FLAT, BU	38.00	38.00
BEANS, GRN, HNDPKD, BU	26.00	30.00
BEANS, WAX, BU	38.00	38.00
BLUEBERRY, 12-1PT CUP W/LID	33.00	36.00
BROCCOLI, CTN, BNCHD, 14	14.00	15.00
BROCCOLI, CRWNCUT, 20 LBS	16.00	16.00
CABBAGE, GREEN, M-L, 50 LBS	14.00	14.00
CABBAGE, RED, M, 50 LBS	18.00	18.00
CARROTS, ORG, BNCHED, 12	13.00	13.00
CAULIFLOWER, 9S, JKTPK	12.00	13.00
CIDER, APPLE, 4-1 GALLON	21.00	22.00
CIDER, APPLE, 9-1/2 GALLON	22.50	25.00
COLLARDS, CRATE, BNCHD, 12	12.00	13.00
CORN, 5 DOZ	17.00	18.00
CUKE, PICKLER, 1/2 BU, SM	6.00	8.00
KALE, BUNCHED, 12	14.00	15.00
KALE, LACINITO, BUNCHED, 12	14.00	15.00
LETTUCE, BOSTON, 24	15.00	15.00
PEAS, ENGLISH, 1-1/9 BU	58.00	60.00
RHUBARB, OPN FIELD, 20 LB	35.00	35.00
SQUASH, YELSTRNCK, M, 1/2 BU	8.00	8.00
SQUASH, YELSTRNCK, S, 1/2 BU	12.00	12.00
SQUASH, ZUCH, L, 1/2 BU	12.00	12.00
SQUASH, ZUCH, M, 1/2 BU	6.00	8.00
SQUASH, ZUCH, S, 1/2 BU	10.00	10.00
TOMS, GHS, CHRRY, 5 LBS	13.00	14.00
TOMS, GHS, CHRRY, 8-10 OZ	20.00	24.00
TOMS, GHS, 15 LB FLAT	17.00	18.00
TOMS, GHS, VNRP, 25 LBS	15.00	20.00
TOMS, GHS, 11 LBS, ON VINE	11.00	12.00

CONNECTICUT FARMERS' MARKET

Price per lb or as noted. Week of July 16-24, 2017.

APPLES, LODI, 8 QT HANDLE	6.00	6.00
APPLES, LODI, 1/2 BU	17.00	17.00
BASIL, PER BUNCH	2.00	3.00
BEANS, GREEN, PER LB	2.00	2.00
BROCCOLI, PER HEAD	3.00	3.00
CABBAGE, EACH	3.00	3.00
CABBAGE, CHINESE, EACH	2.50	2.50
CARROTS, PER BUNCH	2.00	2.00
CHERRY, DK SWEET, PER BOX	65.00	65.00
CORN, SWEET, EACH	.33	.50
CUKES, /2	1.00	1.00
CUKES, EACH	.50	1.50
CUKES, 1/2 BU	10.00	15.00
EGGS, PER DOZEN	3.00	3.00
GREENS, /BUNCH	2.00	3.00
HERBS, /BUNCH	2.00	2.50
HONEY, 5 LBS	25.00	25.00
LETTUCE, EACH	3.00	3.00
PARSLEY, BUNCH	2.00	2.00
PEAS, PER PT	3.00	3.00
PEACHES, QUART	4.00	4.50
PEACHES, 8 QT HANDLE	13.00	15.00
PICKLING CUKES, QT	3.00	3.00
PLUMS, METLEY, PT	4.00	4.00
SQUASH, PER LB	1.00	1.50
SQUASH, QUART	4.00	4.00
TATSOI, PER BUNCH	2.00	2.00
TOMATOES, PER LB	3.00	3.00
TOMATOES, PER QT	4.00	4.00

MIDDLESEX LIVESTOCK AUCTION

Middlefield, CT - July 24, 2017

	LOW	HIGH
Bob Calves:		
45-60 lbs.	42.00	48.00
61-75 lbs.	85.00	100.00
76-90 lbs.	110.00	112.00
91-105 lbs.	115.00	120.00
106 lbs. & up	122.50	127.50
Farm Calves	135.00	150.00
Starter Calves	50.00	55.00
Veal Calves	105.00	157.50
Feeder Heifers	82.50	100.00
Beef Heifers	81.00	98.00
Feeder Steers	n/a	n/a
Beef Steers	100.00	107.00
Feeder Bulls	95.00	100.00
Beef Bulls	95.00	99.00
Replacement Cows	n/a	n/a
Replacement Heifers	n/a	n/a
Boars	n/a	n/a
Sows	n/a	n/a
Butcher Hogs	n/a	n/a
Feeder Pigs each	n/a	n/a
Sheep each	75.00	117.00
Lambs each	110.00	205.00
Goats each	117.50	320.00
Kid Goats each	95.00	180.00
Canners	up to	66.50
Cutters	67.00	70.00
Utility Grade Cows	71.00	74.00
Rabbits each	5.00	62.50
Chickens each	3.00	21.00
Ducks each	5.00	21.00

LANCASTER, PA, LIVESTOCK SUMMARY

Avg. Dressing. Per cwt. Unless noted.

	LOW	HIGH
SLAUGHTER COWS Avg. Dressing		
breakers 75-80% lean	71.00	75.50
boners 80-85% lean	70.00	75.50
lean 88-90% lean	62.00	68.50
SLAUGHTER STEERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 3-4	122.00	126.00
Choice 2-3	119.00	122.00
Select 1-2	113.00	118.00
SLAUGHTER HOLSTEINS		
Hi Choice/Prime 3-4	99.00	109.00
Choice 2-3	93.00	98.00
Sel 1-2	88.00	93.00
SLAUGHTER HEIFERS		
Hi Ch/Prime 2-3	116.00	119.00
Choice 2-3	114.00	116.00
Sel	108.00	110.00
CALVES - Graded bull		
No 1 112-130 lbs	140.00	140.00
No 1 96-110 lbs	167.00	185.00
SLAUGHTER LAMBS: Woolled & Shorn Mkts:		
Ch/Prime 2-3 90-110 lbs	210.00	232.00
Ch/Prime 2-3 110-130 lbs	200.00	220.00
SLAUGHTER EWES: Good 2-3		
80-120 lbs	90.00	110.00
120-160 lbs	80.00	125.00
160-200 lbs	82.00	95.00
SLAUGHTER KIDS: Sel 1		
20-40 lbs	120.00	125.00
60-80 lbs	185.00	222.00
80-100 lbs	210.00	220.00
SLAUGHTER NANNIES/DOES: Sel 1		
80-130 lbs	190.00	230.00
SLAUGHTER BUCKS/BILLIES: Sel 1		
100-150 lbs	240.00	275.00
150-250 lbs	300.00	345.00

(Continued from Page 1)

is that it is relatively easy to produce a serviceable harvest.

“Even if you don’t do the drill right with fertilizer and the pH, you can get pretty good stuff,” he said.

Still, he is detailed in his attention to feeding and caring for the crop, which is planted in the fall and typically harvested over a mid-summer weekend. He uses no chemical pesticides – a decision he said was driven by the strong preferences of his customers.

The drip-irrigated fields are limed each season, fed typical NPK crop fertilizer, and top-dressed with liquid fish fertilizer.

As harvest time approaches, he keeps a close eye on the bulbs, which he said bulge dramatically to fill the plant’s outer-skin “wrapper” in the final few days before they reach peak picking size.

The bulb wrapper is actually an extension of the leaves that wind around the long stalk, also known as a scape, and drop off as they brown.

“You want to have at least three to five wrappers on a bulb when you bring it into the barn,” Cirullo said.

Most of the crop is cured for about two weeks by hanging in bunches in the barn, which also serves as the farm’s retail stand. Cured garlic, which can be stored for up to nine months, is sold per-pound by the bulb, bag or decorative braid.

Fresh garlic is also available at the farm, but its high moisture content means it doesn’t store well. While cooks may prefer smaller bulbs and cloves to better control portions, Cirullo said those growing it at home seek the largest bulbs he has.

Individual cloves are planted about two inches deep, and the larger cloves produce the most vigorous plants and biggest bulbs. The downside is that jumbo bulbs tend to attract more diseases and insects, like basal rot and nematodes.

FOR SALE

1-R. Blumenthal & Donahue is now Connecticut’s first independent NATIONWIDE Agri-Business Insurance Agency. Christmas tree growers, beekeepers, sheep breeders, organic farmers and all others, call us for all your insurance needs. 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

2-R. Farm, homeowner and commercial insurance—we do it all. Call Blumenthal & Donahue 800-554-8049 or www.bludon.com

3-R. Gallagher electric fencing for farms, horses, deer control, gardens, & beehives. Sonpal’s Power Fence 860-491-2290.

4-R. Packaging for egg sales. New egg cartons, flats, egg cases, 30 doz and 15 doz. Polinsky Farm 860-376-2227.

5-R. Nationwide Agribusiness Insurance Program, endorsed by the CT Farm Bureau, save up to 23% on your farm insurance and get better protection. References available from satisfied farmers. Call Marci today at 203-444-6553.

72-R. Reg. Hereford bulls and cow calf pairs for sale. Call for pricing 860-250-3311.

77-R. Evergreen Farm for sale in West Granby, CT. 85 acres plus Ranch house/2.1 acres, stone fireplace, cabin/stone fireplace. \$550,000.00. Call 860-379-1963 for information.

Cirullo also grows about 15 acres of tomatoes, onions, peppers, eggplant, beans and greens, but it is the farm’s namesake crop that drives the operation.

“The garlic market is booming,” he said while picking and loading baskets of sweet white Walla Walla onions in the back of his pickup under a hot sun. “I decided to grow 40 pounds of garlic way back when and one thing led to another and 21 years later we’re up to our necks in garlic.”

So how often does he eat garlic himself?

“Almost every day,” he said with a grin.



79-R. Combine, Gleaner, Model F Diesel. 13’ grain head, 4 row corn head. Very good condition. Asking \$5,000.00. Oliver Super 88 Diesel, wide front. New rear tires. Very good condition. \$3,500.00. 860-355-1264.

80-R. For Sale: Two tobacco racks. \$500.00 each. Suffield. 860-668-5330.

82. Like new, Salsco wood chipper. Model 600 P.T.O. In-feed opening 3-1/2 X 4-1/2. Call 203-314-5228.

WANTED

30-R. Standing timber wanted. Hardwood/softwood, especially sugar maple/white oak. Top prices paid. Licensed and insured. 10 acre minimum. 860-798-4039.

MISCELLANEOUS

6-R. Farm/Land specializing in land, farms, and all types of Real Estate. Established Broker with a lifetime of agricultural experience and 40 years of finance. Representing both Buyers and Sellers. Call Clint Charter of Wallace-Tetreault Realty (860) 644-5667.

81-R. Lynn Blackmer, Nationwide Farm Master Certified Agent, Woodstock, CT. Farm (most any type of agriculture), commercial/business, life insurance and more! Cell: 860-377-8947. Early morning, evening, or weekend appointments available.



Above and left: A converted tobacco barn at The Garlic Farm serves as a garlic-curing shed and retail farm stand.

Page 3 top: Gary Cirullo loading Walla Walla onions into his pickup.

Page 3 bottom: Garlic ready to be hung for curing in the barn.

Page 1 right: Workers harvesting some of the farm's five acres of garlic.

Page 1 left: Cirullo holds a bundle of just-picked German White hardneck garlic.

GROWERS, MARKET MASTERS REMINDED OF CONNECTICUT GROWN LABELING REQUIREMENTS, ENFORCEMENT

The Dept. of Agriculture would like to remind growers and farmers' market masters that all products at farmers' markets offered as Connecticut Grown must be identified by a sign listing the name and address of the producer or the farm where the item originated.

The Department offers free point-of-sale price cards bearing the Connecticut Grown logo and space to list the farm's name and address to anyone selling at the approximately 125 certified farmers' markets statewide, where sale of out-of-state produce is prohibited.

Growers may also make their own Connecticut Grown sign, which must contain a statement that all products being sold under the farm's name and address were of Connecticut origin.

The requirements are contained in Public Act 15-245, "AN ACT CONCERNING THE SALE OF FARM PRODUCTS AS "CONNECTICUT-GROWN," which was enacted on October 1, 2015.

The law calls for violators to receive a warning for a first violation and a \$100 fine for each subsequent violation. During the first full season under the law last year, Department inspectors sought to educate growers about complying with law, and issued approximately 50 warnings.

Most of the warnings were issued because department-issued cards or homemade signs were marked with an item's price, but did not contain the farm's identifying information.

This season, department inspectors will again assist growers with compliance, but also will take enforcement actions including issuing fines in the event of repeat violations.

Price cards may be obtained by completing the form available via the link below and faxing or mailing it to the department:

[Point of Sale Order Form](#)

Advertising Rates: Fifteen or fewer words: \$3.75 per insertion. More than 15 words: 25 cents per word per insertion. Ads must be related to agriculture in Connecticut and are accepted on a first-come, first-served basis. Payment must be received by noon on Friday before publication the following Wednesday. Make check or money order payable to the Connecticut Dept. of Agriculture, and mail copy and remittance to the department at 450 Columbus Blvd., Suite 701, Hartford, CT 06103. For more information contact Jane.Murdock@ct.gov or call 860-713-2588.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Connecticut Department of Agriculture, 450 Columbus Blvd., Suite 701, Hartford CT 06103.

Print subscriptions expire Dec. 31, 2017.

VOL. XCVII, No. 29, July 26, 2017

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